

Prairie Horizons

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Follow the Dakins Lake
Project ONLINE!



<http://bit.ly/dakinslake>



Find us on
Facebook

[www.facebook.com/
storycountyconservation](http://www.facebook.com/storycountyconservation)

PARTNERS SPRING FESTIVAL

"To Bee or Not To Bee" - Protecting Our Pollinators

Sunday, May 3, 2-5 p.m.
McFarland Park



Modern folk music
from *The Runkels*



Bring cash for a native plant
sale sponsored by ISU's EEOB
Department!

Open to everyone,
rain or shine!



See a bee hive up close, learn
how to turn your yard into
pollinator's paradise, be a
beekeeper for the day, plus
lots of other activities
and crafts!

Guess what? We've moved to online registrations!

Go to www.storycountyconservation.org for full instructions

**Registration for all programs, camps, and events is online unless other registration information is provided in the program description. Call (515) 232-2516 if you have questions!*

"All Species, One Earth" Event

Saturday, April 25, 2:00 p.m.
Ames Public Library

NEW!

Kick off the day with an All Species Parade around downtown Ames! Participants can come as any species they want to be for the day - animal or plant, domestic or wild. Following the parade, visit educational exhibits at the Ames Public Library (APL). The perfect culmination of this day is a family concert at 7 p.m. at the APL, featuring award-winning children's book author and well-known singer-songwriter Douglas Wood and the Wild Spirit Band from Minnesota. *For more information, or to register for the parade or concert, please contact the Ames Public Library at 515-239-5646. Major partners include the Iowa Wildlife Center, Story County Conservation Partners, Ames Parks and Recreation, Ames Public Library and the Upper Story Studio.*

Spring Wildflower Hike

Saturday, May 2, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Robison Wildlife Acres (29490 632nd Ave., Nevada)

Come and hike through Robison Wildlife Acres. The beautiful woodland wildflowers are some of the best of all of Story County Conservation's areas. Look for the many signs of spring and learn about the restoration projects taking place in the park. This is a moderate hike suitable for families with small children. Wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather. You may also want to bring binoculars and water. In case of bad weather, this event will be cancelled. *Registration required by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 1.*

TEAM Days

Saturday, May 9, 9:30 a.m.
McFarland Park

Saturday, June 20, 9:00 a.m.
Soper's Mill North
(56501 170th St.)

Be a part of our TEAM (Trail Enhancement and Management) and help make improvements to county trail systems. All volunteers are asked to wear long-sleeved shirts, pants, and gloves and bring a water bottle. Sturdy, closed-toe shoes are strongly recommended. *Registration required by 4:00 p.m. the Thursday before each event.*



A Froggin' We Will Go!

Friday, May 22, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
McFarland Park

Join Naturalist Jess Lancial and learn about our local amphibians. We will discover what makes amphibians so unique, learn how to identify frogs by sight and sound, and then a froggin' we will go! We will try our luck at catching frogs and tadpoles in the pond, so be prepared to get wet and muddy. Nets, tubs, and collection jars will be available, but bring a flashlight. *Registration required by 1:00 p.m. on Friday, May 22.*



Evening Prairie Walks

May 28, June 25, July 23, August 27, 7:00 p.m.
Doolittle Prairie (14249 560th Ave, Story City)

Join Iowa Prairie Network's Lloyd Crim at monthly prairie walks at the largest prairie remnant in Story County. See rare prairie flora that changes each month and learn the history of central Iowa prairies from a prairie enthusiast. Long pants, sturdy shoes, and bug spray are recommended. Bring your camera for beautiful photographs! Doolittle Prairie is located 1.25 miles south of E-18 on 560th Avenue.

Fairy Tails

Saturday, May 30, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
McFarland Park

Explore the woods dressed as your favorite storybook character (an elf, a fairy, a princess, an ent). We will read a book, build a fairy tale world in the woods, have a snack, and create our own tale. Bring your imagination and creativity to discover the park through stories and art! Activities will be targeted to children (ages 5-7) plus their adult, but all ages are welcome. *Registration required by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 22.*

Natural Exposure

Saturday, June 6, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
McFarland Park

Want to learn how to take better photographs outside? Come get exposed to nature photography! SCC, along with Christian Photo, will be hosting an all-day, hands-on photo clinic that will offer multiple sessions for both beginner and advanced photographers. Sessions include everything from basic camera use to composition to night photography. For a detailed description of the sessions and a schedule for the day, visit <http://bit.ly/NaturalExposureSCC>. *Fee of \$45 with registration required by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 29. Fee includes lunch, all presentations, and door prizes.*

Save the Date: Wild Women of the Woods

By Emily Herring, Naturalist

The third annual Wild Women of the Woods event will take place September 25 & 26 at Hickory Grove Park. Festivities will begin with a live owl program and owling hike, snacks, and free camping on Friday night. Participants can choose from many different sessions on Saturday including Archery, Basket Weaving, Gun Handling, Landscaping for Nature, Meditation, Paddle Boarding, Rock Jewelry, Watercolor Painting, and much more! Watch for more information on our website and in the fall issue of *Prairie Horizons*.



Lost Ladybug Project

Saturday, June 27, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
McFarland Park

Be an insect scientist! Hunt for ladybugs in the park and contribute to a nationwide citizen science project. We will use nets to search for bugs and cameras to record our finds for the Lost Ladybug Project. Discover why entomologists started an online project to allow ladybug lovers of all backgrounds to help track these insects. All ages are encouraged to participate, but be ready to go off-trail in tall grass. Nets and a limited number of digital cameras will be available for use. Optional: Participants may wish to download the Lost Ladybug smartphone app to their own phones to record and submit their bugs. *Registration required by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 24.*



Programs & Events

Canoe and Fossil Hunt

Saturday, July 11, 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Middle River in Madison County, Iowa
(Meeting at McFarland Park)

Join Naturalist Jess Lancial for an exciting geology-themed day paddling the Middle River in scenic Madison County. Paddle alongside rolling hills and striking limestone cliffs with stops on sandbars to search for fossils, artifacts, and more! This trip is intended for adults or kids (ages 16+) plus their adult. A fun day of paddling will be followed by dinner in Winterset, so please bring money for your meal. This trip is dependent on weather and river levels. Previous paddling experience is highly recommended. Only 14 spots are available, so register early! *Fee with registration required by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, July 6. Fee is \$25 per person. Cost includes transportation and all equipment.*



Adult/Child Canoe Trip

Saturday, August 15, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
McFarland Park

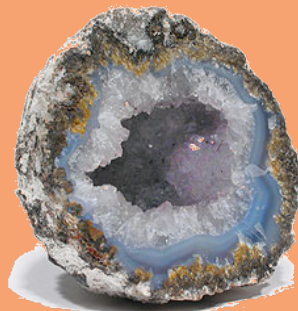
Join us for a canoe trip down a central Iowa river! We'll meet at McFarland Park for a brief orientation before traveling to our launching site. Enjoy a day on the water; relax on sandbars, hunt for washed-up treasures, or take a dip to cool off! Reconnect and unwind on this guided paddle. This trip is dependent on weather and river levels. Previous canoe experience is not necessary. *Fee of \$40 per canoe (two adults and one child, one adult and two children, or two adults with two small children) with registration required by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 12.*

Save the Dates:

By Jess Lancial, Naturalist

Family Geode Hunting Excursion

This geode hunting excursion is for families with children ages 3-17. Meet Naturalist Jess Lancial in Keokuk, Iowa to visit two privately-owned geode hunting sites on August 22 & 23. Your children will learn how to find, identify, and crack open geodes and will come home with their own sparkly treasures and fun memories! Discounted hotel rates will be offered at the Fairfield Inn (featuring a swimming pool). Cost will include three meals, identification guide, and prizes! Geode hunting sites are not stroller-friendly, and physical exertion such as lifting, digging, and hiking on uneven terrain and along a river will be required.



Adult Geode Hunting Excursion

Travel on a geode hunting excursion this fall! Spend Saturday, September 19 and Sunday, September 20 in Keokuk, Iowa, with Naturalist Jess Lancial. Keokuk is well known for its great abundance and variety of geodes. Participants will learn how to identify geodes, visit two privately-owned digging sites, and take geodes home. Cost will cover transportation, hotel, three meals, snacks, access to a geode cracker, and pamphlet. This trip is for adults 18 years and older. Participants should expect some physical exertion such as lifting, digging, and hiking on uneven terrain and wet areas.

Adult Outdoor Recreation Trips

These trips are sponsored by:



Upper Iowa River Canoeing Adventure

July 18-19

Bluffton, Iowa



Float past beautiful limestone bluffs as you take a two-day canoe trip down the scenic Upper Iowa River in northeast Iowa. We will depart Saturday morning and head for Chimney Rock Campground, set up camp, and eat lunch before getting on the river. We will float about 3-4 hours, land at our campsite, have dinner, and share our adventures around the campfire with some tasty s'mores. The next day we will break camp, eat breakfast, and float from our campsite about two hours down to Bluffton. Experienced and trained naturalists will insure a safe and enjoyable trip. Canoes, paddles, life jackets, and most meals are provided. Fee: \$100; includes transportation (15 passenger van), camping fees, paddling gear, and all food except for meals while traveling. We will depart from McFarland Park at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday and return late afternoon on Sunday. Participants need to provide a tent, sleeping bag, personal items, and cash for meals while traveling. Minimum age is 18, and the trip is limited to 12 participants. Prior paddling experience is required, and participants must be in good physical condition. Trip registration opens on April 13 at 8:00 a.m. and closes on July 2.

Register by going online at: <http://bit.ly/CanoeUpperIowa>

Kayak the Niobrara River

July 22-26

Valentine, Nebraska

Join Polk County Conservation Naturalist Joe Boyles and Story County Conservation Naturalist Jess Lancial on this five-day adventure. The Niobrara River is a National Wild and Scenic River, which offers spectacular paddling and scenery. We'll camp three nights along the banks of the river within a five-minute walk to the spectacular Smith Falls, the largest waterfall in Nebraska. We'll paddle three days on the river. Meals will be prepared for you by the campfire while you relax and take in the scenery. Cost is \$400, which covers everything except two meals while traveling. Participants must be 21 years of age and in good physical condition. You will need to bring a tent, sleeping bag, personal items, and cash for souvenirs and meals while traveling. Sign up early because this trip is limited to 10 participants. Trip registration opens on April 13 at 8:00 a.m. and closes on July 5.

Register by going online at: <http://bit.ly/KayakNiobrara>



Nature Camps



Want a T-shirt for nature camp?
Visit www.storycountyconservation.org for
instructions on how to order one!

**ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR
ALL NATURE CAMPS BEGINS
SATURDAY, APRIL 18 AT 8:00 A.M.**

For children starting kindergarten fall 2015:

POLLIWOGS \$35/session (Monday-Thursday only)



Camp A - Whether they have fur, feathers, fliers, or fins, preschoolers explore what makes each animal special. On the last day, we'll venture near the lake with nets, so be prepared to get wet and dirty!
June 8 - 11, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. or June 8 - 11, 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Camp B - Children experience nature using dirt, rocks, plants, and water and get wet and dirty in the process!
July 6 - 9, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

For children completing kindergarten spring 2015:

FROGS \$40/session

Camp A - Children discover what makes a habitat through exploration, games, and song. Campers connect to the world around them by investigating the five basic needs of all living things.
June 15 - 19, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. or June 15 - 19, 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Camp B - Every day at Frogs camp is an adventure as children examine the natural world around them.
July 13 - 17, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. or July 20 - 24, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.



For children completing grades 1 or 2 spring 2015:

WATERBUGS \$40/session



Camp A - Children investigate Iowa's different habitats, explore their artistic and writing creativity, and get dirty in the process.
*June 8 - 12, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. or
June 15 - 19, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. or
June 15 - 19, 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.*

Camp B - Children will go on expeditions to find nature's wonders right here in Story County.
*July 6 - 10, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. or
July 13 - 17, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.*

FUN-LOVING OUTDOOR ADVENTURE TEAM (FLOAT)

For youth completing grades 3 or 4 spring 2015: FLOAT-I \$50

... teaches campers basic outdoor skills while preparing for the higher level FLOATs. Fishing, canoeing, map reading, cooking, and other skills will be taught.

June 23 - 24, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. or July 27 - 28, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

For youth completing grades 5 or 6 spring 2015: FLOAT - II \$50

... teaches a variety of outdoor skills. Campers build self-confidence in camping, canoeing, and fishing and spend the night exploring McFarland Park. This is outdoor play in the best way.

July 30, 9:00 a.m. - July 31, 9:00 a.m. (overnight)

For youth completing grades 6 or 7 spring 2015: FLOAT - III \$55

... allows campers to explore an Iowa river by taking an overnight canoe trip. Campers must have prior canoe experience or have attended a previous FLOAT camp.

August 3, 9:00 a.m. - August 4, 4:00 p.m. (overnight)



For youth completing grades 7 or 8 spring 2015: FLOAT - IV \$75

... explores Iowa underground! Go caving, climbing, and hiking on a two-night experience in eastern Iowa. Learn how cooperation and teamwork can build your own confidence and abilities. Dare to try new things and discover new places. *Please note that caving involves crawling through dark, small spaces.*

August 5, 9:00 a.m. - August 7, 3:00 p.m. (overnight)

For those completing grades 9 - 12 spring 2015: FLOAT - V \$325

Join Story County Conservation naturalists on an inspiring seven-day backpacking adventure to Rocky Mountain National Park! Campers will spend three nights backcountry camping in over 200,000 acres of wilderness at our nation's highest national park. Surround yourself with crystal clear lakes, rugged peaks, and vast meadows. Explore the eastern mountain range and discover secluded water falls. Once we leave the backcountry, the adventure continues with a breathtaking two-hour horseback ride through the Hidden Meadow. Immerse yourself in the wilderness. Challenge your mind, body, and spirit and make it a summer to remember! Space is limited!

June 12, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (training day)

June 25, 9:00 a.m. - July 1, 4:00 p.m. (overnight)

***How do you earn a spot? Go to <http://bit.ly/SCCProgramsandEvents>, complete an application, and deliver it to McFarland Park by 4:00 p.m. on May 8. If selected, you will begin your journey with a training day on June 12 at McFarland Park, where you will prepare for your adventure! Backpacking is a very physical activity, so you will want to be in decent shape before we leave. SCC will provide backpacks, tents, water filters, stoves, and food. Participants are responsible for meals on the road, sleeping bags and pads, water bottles, and clothing.



This map illustrates the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail, a green line connecting various natural areas across Iowa. The trail starts in the northwest near Bob Pyle Marsh and ends in the southeast near Marshall County, where it continues. Key locations and features include:

- Counties:** Story, Roland, McCall, Zearing, Gilbert, Sherman, Boone, Nevada, Lincoln, Hickory, Hocking, and Marshall.
- Wildlife Areas and Parks:** Bob Pyle Marsh, Doolittle Prairie, Sheffield Wildlife Area, Anderson Access, I-35 Prairie Area, Crooked Bend, Bear Creek, Soper's Mill, Leopold Woods, Peterson Park Access, O'Neil Prairie, Ada Hayden Heritage Park, Sleepy Hollow Access, Wakefield Woods, Cooper's Prairie Marsh, Jim Ketelsen Greenwing Marsh, Larson Marsh, Colo Bog Wildlife Management Area, Hertz Family Woods and Nature Preserve, Jennett Heritage Area, Robison Wildlife Acres, Gladys Leui Preserve, Hendrickson Marsh, and Christiansen Forest Preserve.
- Trails:** Praeri Rail Trail, Heart of Iowa Nature Trail, and High Trestle Trail.
- Water Bodies:** Bear Creek, East Creek, Squaw Creek, South Skunk River, Grand Creek, Indian Creek, and Cambridge Pond.
- Access Points:** Lekwa Access, E18 Greenbelt Access, E18, E29, E63, and C.J. Shreck Access.
- Other Features:** Roland Wildlife Area, Ed Powell Wildlife Area, Dakins Lake, Zearing, McCallsburg, Ames, Nevada, Kelley, Slater, Huxley, Cambridge, Maxwell, Collins, and Sheldahl.

County Managed State Managed City Owned Developed Trail Undeveloped Trail On Road



STORY COUNTY
CONSERVATION

8

Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
MAY 2015			
Saturday, May 2	10:00 a.m.	Spring Wildflower Hike	RWA
Sunday, May 3	2:00 p.m.	<i>Partners</i> Spring Festival	McF
Tuesday, May 5	11:00 a.m.	O.W.L.S.: Whiterock Conservancy	McF
Thursday, May 7	7:00 p.m.	Story County Conservation <i>Partners</i> Meeting	McF
Saturday, May 9	9:30 a.m.	TEAM (Trail Enhancement and Management) Day	McF
Monday, May 11	5:30 p.m.	Story County Conservation Board Meeting	McF
Saturday, May 16	7:00 p.m.	Ames Area Amateur Astronomers: <i>Eclipses in 2015</i>	McF
Friday, May 22	7:00 p.m.	A Froggin' We Will Go	McF
Monday, May 25	Holiday	Story County Conservation Offices Closed	
Thursday, May 28	7:00 p.m.	Evening Prairie Walk	DP
Thursday, May 28	7:30 p.m.	Story County Trails Advisory Committee Meeting	McF
Saturday, May 30	10:00 a.m.	Fairy Tails	McF
JUNE 2015			
Tuesday, June 2	11:00 a.m.	O.W.L.S.: Henry A. Wallace	McF
Saturday, June 6	8:30 a.m.	Natural Exposure	McF
Monday, June 8	5:30 p.m.	Story County Conservation Board Meeting	McF
Saturday, June 20	9:00 a.m.	TEAM (Trail Enhancement and Management) Day	SMN
Saturday, June 20	7:00 p.m.	Ames Area Amateur Astronomers: <i>Pluto Flyby</i>	McF
Thursday, June 25	7:00 p.m.	Evening Prairie Walk	DP
Thursday, June 25	7:30 p.m.	Story County Trails Advisory Committee Meeting	McF
Saturday, June 27	2:00 p.m.	Lost Ladybug Project	McF
JULY 2015			
Friday, July 3	Holiday	Story County Conservation Offices Closed	
Thursday, July 9	7:00 p.m.	Story County Conservation <i>Partners</i> Meeting	McF
Friday, July 10	12:00 p.m.	Naturalist Lunchbox	McF
Saturday, July 11	7:30 a.m.	Canoe and Fossil Hunt	Middle River
Monday, July 13	5:30 p.m.	Story County Conservation Board Meeting	McF
Saturday, July 18	7:00 p.m.	Ames Area Amateur Astronomers: <i>TBD</i>	McF
July 18-19		Upper Iowa River Canoeing Adventure	Bluffton, IA
July 22-26		Kayak the Niobrara River	Valentine, NE
Thursday, July 23	7:00 p.m.	Evening Prairie Walk	DP
Friday, July 24	12:00 p.m.	Naturalist Lunchbox	McF
AUGUST 2015 *Sneak Peek*			
Saturday, August 15	9:00 a.m.	Adult/Child Canoe Trip	TBA
August 22-23		Family Geode Hunting Excursion	Keokuk, IA

McF = McFarland Park RWA = Robison Wildlife Acres SMN = Soper's Mill North DP = Doolittle Prairie

Sign up for the electronic version of *Prairie Horizons*!

Help SCC save resources by requesting our e-version of the newsletter. To change delivery method, email conservationoutreach@storycountyia.gov with a current email address.



Stay connected with SCC

New Board Member for Story County Conservation

Nancy Franz was recently appointed as Story County Conservation's newest board member. Originally from West Allis, Wisconsin, Nancy arrived in Iowa five years ago to take on the role of Associate Dean for Iowa State University Extension. Conservation has been a common theme throughout her life; she even spent 12 years leading canoeing, backpacking, and biking trips for *Woods Women* and *Women Outdoors*.

Nancy first got involved with Story County Conservation as a volunteer for a Wild Women of the Woods event and is excited that it led her back to working in conservation issues. She commented, "I've always integrated environmental education into my work and personal life, and now I'm glad in retirement to volunteer more of my time to Story County Conservation." Nancy brings a great wealth of knowledge and passion for natural resources. Please join us in welcoming her!



Naturalist Lunchbox

Bring your lunch, spread a blanket, and join a naturalist for a Friday picnic at McFarland Park. Each "lunchbox" will feature a nature topic that we'll experience through stories and activities.

The program is free and appropriate for all ages. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration not required.

**Friday, July 10 and
Friday, July 24**
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.



Sunday, May 31 at 2:00 p.m.

Story County Conservation Center
56461 180th Street, Ames

**Join Us In Honoring the Life
and Legacy of Bill Horine:**

Outdoor enthusiast, photographer,
writer, and conservation leader
August 15, 1915 - November 26, 2014

Drainage District Maintenance

By: Tyler Kelley, Vegetation Management Specialist

Drainage ditches throughout Story County have started getting some extra care in recent years. In the early 1900s, Iowa began developing drainage systems to facilitate water movement in an effort to make Iowa's great soils even more suitable for farming. Over 3,000 drainage districts were surveyed, leading to a complex matrix of tile and open ditches throughout our prime farm lands. These drainage districts are typically governed by the county board of supervisors acting as drainage district trustees. A Drainage District Clerk within each county is available to divide the cost of maintenance and installation based on the percentage of property using each facility.

Over the years, community members, landowners, and producers were finding that more and more of these drainage facilities were in some state of disrepair. County tile lines were plugging due to woody vegetation both below and above the ground. The 65 miles of open ditches throughout Story County were suffering from siltation, bank collapse, erosion, and woody debris. Attributing factors included lack of maintenance over several decades, marginal land stewardship, and the absence of vegetative buffers along the county's drainage network.

In 2011, Story County Conservation's Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) program was asked by the drainage district trustees of Story County to take a progressive approach in maintaining the vegetation along these drainage systems. This included working with landowners to maintain vegetative buffers and access lanes. The intent was to move the landscape of Story County's open ditches from areas of undesirable trees and brush to a more diverse and manageable vegetative community.

Since then, seven miles of open ditches have been cleared of unwanted woody vegetation while native shrubs and trees not affecting the system have been left intact. In conjunction with tall grass growth in the formerly bare understory, these improvements provide better wildlife cover along our open ditches.

IRVM staff is actively encouraging landowners whose property lies adjacent to drainage district facilities to take advantage of the Conservation Reserve Program. This would provide year-round access for regular maintenance of the ditch while addressing erosion and water quality issues and improving overall wildlife value. We are well on our way to having a healthier drainage district.

The IRVM staff is always happy to answer questions regarding this and other aspects of our program.



A drainage ditch before (left) and after (right) unwanted woody vegetation was removed

Opening Early Summer 2015!

This 103 acre park will offer:

- 20 acres of water -- electric motors only
- 29 new campsites: 12 full hook-up, 17 electric & water
- Shower house
- Picnic shelter (available for reservation)
- Two miles of trails
- Lake stocked with catfish, bluegill, and bass



Plant. Grow. Fly.

Story County Conservation is proud to be a partner of the Plant. Grow. Fly. initiative through the Blank Park Zoo. Their mission is to encourage citizens and organizations to become aware of pollinator issues and to take action to preserve them. The main focus is to increase habitat for pollinators through specialized pollinator gardens.



You can find various information on their website including gardening tips and lists of good host and nectar plants for your space. Blank Park Zoo explains, "Pollinators are in decline due to a variety of reasons including global climate change, loss of habitat and feeding resources, and some modern agricultural practices. Butterflies, for instance, require large corridors of suitable habitat to navigate between nectar sources. Our increasing rates of development and expanding networks of roads have presented them with formidable challenges. According to Monarch Watch, butterflies lose habitat areas equivalent to the size of Illinois every 16 years - that's an average of 2.2 million acres lost per year. Butterflies require not only connecting high quality swaths of habitat, but also specific types of plants that help them to feed and reproduce: nectar plants and host plants, respectively. Each species of butterfly has specific sets of needs these plants must meet to be used. In Iowa, the majority of our butterflies need region-specific grassland plants. However, these plants are just as threatened as the butterflies they help: since European settlement, Iowa has lost more than 99.9% of its native tallgrass prairie. Iowa butterflies - and the habitats in which they live - need our help."

Want to do your part? Story County Conservation is encouraging individuals to register their gardens with Plant. Grow. Fly. in an effort to expand pollinator habitat. Your pollinator garden could be as big as your backyard, or as small as a single pot on your porch! No effort is too small. It is our goal to get at least 35 gardens registered in 2015. For more information or to register, visit <http://bit.ly/PlantGrowFly>. If you do register your garden, make sure to mention Story County Conservation sent you!

Give A Gift That Will Last All Year!

With the gift of a Story County Conservation *Partners* membership, a family or individual can enjoy a year of involvement! Recipients will receive a nature themed magnet, free or discounted admission to select conservation and *Partners* events and programs, and the *Prairie Horizons* newsletter! The Goldfinch membership level and above receive a token of appreciation (to be used for programs, merchandise, or SCC services) based on level of membership. The Red Fox membership level and above will be recognized for their support in the conservation center at McFarland Park.

Red-tailed Hawk - \$1,000 or more

Great Blue Heron - \$275 to \$999

Red Fox - \$125 to \$274

Goldfinch - \$70 to \$124

Otter (Family) - \$35 to \$69

Great Horned Owl (Individual) - \$30

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ My membership level is _____

Make checks payable to: Story County Conservation *Partners*
56461 180th Street, Ames, IA 50010-9451; Phone (515) 232-2516

Thank You!

*Thank you to all those who support
Story County Conservation with
donations of time, funding, and materials.*

Thank you to the following for their generosity:

124.5 lbs of prairie seed mix
from Cindy Hildebrand and Roger Maddux

Cash donation for equipment repairs
from Tre Wilson

Hand puppets for environmental education
from Don Durand

Cash donation in memory of Jordan Bergland
from David and Marsha Hegland

Eight life jackets
from Roger Larson

Cash donation
from Richard and Naomi Smith



Story County Conservation Board

Ted Tedesco, Ames - Chair

Craig Meyers, Nevada - Vice Chair

Allen Weber, Ames - Secretary

Dr. James Pease, Ames

Nancy Franz, Ames

Wayne Clinton, Ames - Ex Officio Member

Story County Conservation Director

Michael Cox

*The Story County Conservation Board meets monthly at
the Story County Conservation Center at McFarland Park
(56461 180th St.), northeast of Ames.*

This booklet is brought to you with support from Story County Conservation *Partners*. *Partners* was originally formed in 1996 to help produce the newsletter. Since then, *Partners* has expanded its support of Story County Conservation to include funding and support of various conservation projects, spring and fall festivals, and the *Partners* Photo Contest. *Partners* members are people who continue to make a difference with financial, volunteer, and program support.

Volume 19 Number 2

STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION
56461 180th STREET
AMES, IA 50010-9451

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
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Permit 301

O.W.L.S.

Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors

O.W.L.S. programs are held the first Tuesday of each month at 11 a.m. at the Story County Conservation Center. These programs are designed for “boomers” or older – but anyone can attend. An optional luncheon follows the program for just \$7. Registration for lunch is required by 4 p.m. the Friday before the program.

Online registrations are not yet available for O.W.L.S. - register by calling, emailing, or stopping in!

Whiterock Conservancy

Conrad Kramer, Executive Director
Tuesday, May 5

Conrad Kramer, executive director of Whiterock Conservancy, will speak about how Whiterock represents the very best of rural Iowa today, tomorrow, and beyond. Learn how Whiterock, a nonprofit, is one of Iowa’s biggest parks, represents Iowa’s largest land gift, preserves and promotes Iowa’s best rural history, pursues Iowa’s largest private land restoration effort, stewards some of Iowa’s best habitat, demonstrates some of Iowa’s best sustainable agriculture, and will become (in 2015), one of Iowa’s best outdoor recreation destinations. *Register for lunch by 4 p.m. on Friday, May 1.*

Menu: Ham balls, red potatoes with butter, honey glazed carrots, dinner roll, apple waldorf salad.

Henry A. Wallace

Tom Milligan, Actor
Tuesday, June 2

In this one-act play based on the award-winning book of the same name by Senator John C. Culver and John Hyde, actor Tom Milligan portrays Henry A. Wallace, the agricultural innovator and founder of Pioneer Hi-Bred seed corn company, who became U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, and later, Vice President under Franklin Roosevelt. Admired by many and later branded as a Socialist during his controversial 1948 campaign for the presidency, Wallace always held out a vision for the future.

Register for lunch by 4 p.m. on Friday, May 29.

Menu: Fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, spring salad, dinner roll, cookies.